

REMARKS

Claims 11 to 13 and 15 to 26 are pending in the application. The Applicants urge that careful consideration of the below Remarks should place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, timely and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(b)/103(a) over Boskamp

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11 to 13 and 15 to 26 under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over US Patent Number 4,462,922 to Boskamp et al. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Boskamp purportedly teaches an enzymatic liquid detergent composition comprising amine oxide, antioxidant, chelant, surfactant and other requisite limitations of the present claims. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection.

Initially, the Applicants wish to remind the Examiner that present Claims 11 to 13 and 15 to 26 relate entirely to a process for making a liquid dishwashing detergent composition wherein the final composition comprises substantially no residual hydrogen peroxide. The Applicants wish to underscore this point in light of the fact that the cited portions of Boskamp are limited to nonionic synthetic detergent compositions, with no recitation of process steps that read upon those of the present claims. The Applicants further wish to underscore to the Examiner that present Claim 11 relates to a process of making a liquid dishwashing detergent comprising a first step of combining an amine oxide-containing residual hydrogen peroxide with an antioxidant to form a detergent premix containing less than 0.02% of hydrogen peroxide. The Applicants submit that the Examiner has yet to identify a specific portion of the Boskamp reference that teaches or suggests a process for making the present liquid dishwashing detergent composition, comprising a first step of producing a detergent premix. Further, it is the Applicants' position that Boskamp fails to teach or suggest a process of making a liquid dishwashing detergent composition comprising a first step of making a requisite premix, and a second and distinct step of adding an amylase enzyme to said premix. Indeed, the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness falls upon the Examiner. It is the Applicants' position that the Examiner has yet to satisfy this burden, as the Examiner has failed to identify any reference that teaches or suggests the present process of making a dishwashing detergent composition comprising two distinct steps, the first involving the production of the above-described premix and the second relating to the addition of a specific enzyme to said premix. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 24 and 26 under 35 USC § 102(b), or alternatively under 35 USC § 103(a).

Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) over Vinson

The Examiner has rejected Claims 11 to 13 and 15 to 26 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over US Patent Number 6,069,122 to Vinson et al (hereinafter "Vinson"). Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Vinson teaches the nonionic surfactants, enzymes and buffering agents of the present invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

The Applicants again wish to underscore to the Examiner that Claims 11 to 13 and 15 to 26 relate, entirely, to a process for making a liquid dishwashing detergent composition wherein the final composition comprises substantially no residual hydrogen peroxide. To reiterate, the process of the present invention comprises two, distinct process steps – the first of which relates to the production of a premix containing less than 0.02% of hydrogen peroxide via combining an amine oxide-containing residual hydrogen peroxide with an antioxidant. An amylase enzyme is subsequently added to this premix to form the resulting liquid dishwashing detergent composition. The Applicants submit that the Examiner has yet to identify a single reference or combination of references that disclose a process comprising these two, distinct steps. Indeed, the Examiner does not refute that Vinson fails to teach a process for making a liquid detergent composition comprising the specific amine oxide as recited by instant claim 11. Although the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to formulate a liquid detergent composition comprising the specific amine oxide, the Examiner's inquiry and efforts are again misplaced. The present claims relate to a process with two distinct steps, and thus, cannot be rendered obvious via the mere disclosure of a detergent composition, in the absence of specific process steps evidencing the first production of a premix and the subsequent addition of an amylase enzyme. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 24 and 26 under 35 USC § 103 (a) are therefore respectfully requested.

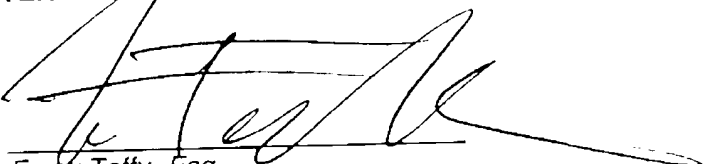
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, reconsideration of the claims in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the claims rejections, and allowance of Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 26, are respectfully requested. In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, then the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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09 October 2003
Cincinnati, Ohio
7942-OA1.doc